

02296-1894
Hgo

2 July 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM : H.C. Eisenbeiss
Director, Central Reference Service

SUBJECT: CRS Response to Inquiry from Congresswoman Bella S. Abzug
Concerning the Publication Information Digest

1. Bella S. Abzug, Chairwoman of the House Government Information and Individual Rights Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations, sent a letter (attached) to the DCI, George Bush, asking for information concerning CIA's receipt and use of a publication entitled Information Digest. CRS and other Agency components were asked by the O/DCI to submit information on the publication.

2. Searches of the CRS Acquisitions Branch (AB) and CIA Library files and records were made. Almost all of the Agency's subscriptions and ad hoc book purchases are handled by CRS' AB. It was determined that no subscription to the newsletter had been processed at any time by the AB and no issues were in the CIA Library. No record of the title was located in standard periodical directories. An article about the newsletter from the Washington Post of 27 June 1976 was recovered from the Library reference files. In addition, the Library information staff contacted several Agency components to attempt to identify the publication. The Office of Security, one of the contacted offices, advised that they also had received the Abzug request, that they knew of the publication and were responding to the inquiry.

3. In her letter, Congresswoman Abzug also asked if the Agency currently subscribes to or receives similar publications and, if so, for what purpose. While the meaning of the question is somewhat unclear, we define "similar publications" to be domestically published newsletters which collectively represent the broad range of political thought. Using this definition, the Agency, through AB, receives several "similar publications" such as: Intelligence Report, published by the Center for National Security Studies; Evans-Novak Political Report, published by the Evans-Novak Political Report Company; and Washington Report, published by the American Security Council. These publications are received in CRS for library information and reference purposes.

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4. Finally, it should be noted that the CIA Library, as might be expected, occasionally acquires sample issues of periodicals to which it does not subscribe. The periodicals are received from various sources as gifts, direct receipts from publishers, etc. This collection was not examined to respond to Ms. Abzug's request because there is no index to the collection and it would be a major effort to try to determine if any were applicable to the request.

Attachment
As Stated



STAT

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225-3741

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NINETY-FOURTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS
SUBCOMMITTEE

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM B-349-B-C
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

June 25, 1976

Executive Registry

76-267

3926-76

Honorable George Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Bush:

The Subcommittee has documentary evidence that the Central Intelligence Agency has utilized Information Digest, a secret and confidential mimeographed newsletter ostensibly published privately and sent to some 40 law-enforcement and intelligence agency subscribers. A recent New York State investigation described this publication as "a sophisticated, right wing intelligence newsletter which for the last seven years has supplied police departments throughout the United States with derogatory information on liberals and the left." My own inspection of several copies of this publication strongly suggests its contents are based upon a nationwide network of hidden informants, often law-enforcement connected, that have infiltrated a wide spectrum of non-violent groups exercising their Constitutional rights.

I wish to know:

- (1) What CIA entities subscribed to Information Digest (also periodically called Intelligence Report), and during what periods?
- (2) From what sources other than the publisher did any CIA entity receive, on a regular or irregular basis, Information Digest (or any surrogate), and during what periods?

In other words, what private and/or governmental sources also supplied or exchanged with CIA copies of, or data derived from Information Digest?

- (3) What monies were paid by CIA entities, and to which addresses, for subscriptions or contributions to Information Digest (or any surrogate or agent thereof)?

Other than the subscription price, is CIA aware of any other government funds or monies which were used in any way to support the activities of Information Digest? If so, please provide a detailed description of such payments.

- (4) To what divisions within the CIA, and to what regional offices, was the Information Digest (or any surrogate) distributed on either a formal or informal basis?
- (5) How was information supplied to CIA entities by the Information Digest (or any surrogate), or information derived from Information Digest, utilized? To what entities, both internal and external to the CIA, was this information disseminated by CIA?
- (6) What is the legal authority, if any, upon which CIA relied to pay monies to Information Digest? to utilize its data? to disseminate to other agencies this material?
- (7) How is information received from Information Digest currently stored? Has the data been integrated into active or inactive files maintained by CIA on particular individuals or groups? In what manner or form may the information derived from Information Digest be retrieved?
- (8) What information, if any, did CIA, its entities, or agents, supply to Information Digest (or any surrogate), or its agents? Please describe in detail the nature of any such information given or shared; the legal basis for such exchange; and the identity of CIA entities which supplied such information.
- (9) If a formal or informal relationship existed between CIA, its components, or agents to supply information to Information Digest or its agents, by whose authority within the CIA was such relationship initiated and approved?
- (10) Is the CIA aware of any instance in which a governmental entity supplied information on individuals or organizations to Information Digest or its agents? Please provide details of any such arrangements.
- (11) Does CIA currently subscribe to or receive publications similar to Information Digest; and if so, for what purposes?

If you or your staff have any questions concerning this request, please contact Subcommittee Professional Staff Member Robert Fink at 225-3741.

I look forward to receiving your detailed response, on or before July 8, 1976.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bella S. Abzug".

BELLA S. ABZUG
Chairwoman

☐ UNCLASSIFIED

☐ INTERNAL
USE ONLY

☐ CONFIDENTIAL

☒ SECRET

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Information Digest

FROM:

Robert W. Gambino
Director of Security

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

1 JUL 1976

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. ADDA
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2 JUL 1976

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3. Legislative Counsel
Att:
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